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Barbara Bush's Undercover Book Change

Hawk-eyed readers of former first lady **Barbara Bush's** hardcover and paperback versions of her auto-bio will notice a difference between them. But no one close to Mrs. Bush will say publicly whether the change resulted from a \$4 million libel suit filed against her by an ex-spy.

The 1994 version of "Barbara Bush: A Memoir" states that CIA station chief **Richard Welch** was killed in Athens in 1975 after his cover was blown "by a traitorous, tell-all book written by former CIA agent **Philip Agee**." The 1995 paperback version links Welch's murder to the "publication of his CIA affiliation in *Counter-Spy*, a notorious anti-CIA publication." Agee is not mentioned.

Why the change? Because of the suit filed in D.C. Superior Court in September against Mrs. Bush, publisher **Simon and Schuster** and its **Scribner** imprint, according to a well-placed source.

"The change will help the lawsuit because it's pretty much of an admission that there was no basis for the first statement," said Agee lawyer **Lynn Bernabei**.

No one in the Bush camp is talking, because the suit is pending. It's now in U.S. District Court, where Mrs. Bush's



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Bush, making a slight revision—and making lawyers for Agee (below in 1987) very happy.



lawyers had it moved. Ironically, the federal case went to Judge **Stanley Sporkin**, a former CIA general counsel, who recused himself. A new judge now has it, but Bernabei said she'll move to have it sent back to Superior Court.

Simon and Schuster spokesman **Anthony Giangola** confirmed the obvious—that the change was made.

David Kaye, general counsel for **St. Martin's Press**, which published the paperback, said, "It's up to [Simon and Schuster] to supply the text to us. They did the editorial work on the book." Bush spokesman **Jim McGrath** in Houston had a "no comment," noting "our policy here is minimum information given with maximum politeness."